

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 WELLIN 04816 01 OF 02 110451Z
ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-15 OIC-02
CIAE-00 EB-08 ICA-11 IO-13 NSC-05 NSF-01 ARA-11
NSAE-00 COME-00 L-03 DLOS-09 SOE-02 DOE-15
TRSE-00 PM-05 EPA-01 INT-05 PA-01 CEQ-01 DOTE-00
OMB-01 ACDA-12 SP-02 /165 W
-----076362 110503Z /10

R 110417Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6203
INFO SECNAV WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 04816

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS NSF POLAR PROGRAMS

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, XV, KS, NZ, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED KOREAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION
REF: (A) SEOUL 6960; (B) STATE 210665

SUMMARY: ROK EMBASSY HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED THE ASSIST-
ANCE OF THE GNZ FOR A 1979-80 ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.
REQUEST INCLUDED A COPY OF A PROPOSED PROGRAM WHICH WOULD
UTILIZE MCMURDO AND POLE STATIONS; USG AIR RESUPPLY DROPS,
SEARCH AND RESCUE AND COMMUNICATIONS; MOVEMENT OF 80 TONS
OF EQUIPMENT BY AIR FROM CHRISTCHURCH TO MCMURDO.
ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR ACKNOWLEDGES THE PROPOSAL IS NAIVE
BUT CLAIMS MONEY IS NO OBJECT AND EXPEDITION IS A
MATTER OF NATIONAL PRIDE. END SUMMARY.

1. ROK EMBASSY ON SEPTEMBER 5 PRESENTED NOTE TO NEW
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 WELLIN 04816 01 OF 02 110451Z

ZEALAND MFA INFORMING THE GNZ THAT THE KOREA POLAR
RESEARCH EXPEDITION (KPRE), "SUPPORTED BY THE KOREAN
GOVERNMENT," PLANS TO MAKE ROUND TRIP MCMURDO/POLE/
MCMURDO ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1979 AND
MARCH 1980.

2. NOTE STATES THAT, ON INSTRUCTIONS, THE EMBASSY RE-

QUESTS THE GNZ TO "RENDER THE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE NECESSARY TO THE KPFE FOR THE SUCCESSFUL EXECUTION OF ITS MISSION IN ANTARCTICA." IT ENCLOSES "PROGRAM FOR THE EXPEDITION OF THE SOUTH POLE" (SIC). PROGRAM, APPARENTLY PREPARED BY THE KOREA ALPINE FEDERATION, LISTS AS THE EXPEDITION'S PURPOSES: STUDY OF NAVIGATION THROUGH ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATION; GROUND OBSERVATION; INFLUENCE OF WEATHER ON THE HUMAN BODY; GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH. THE PROPOSED EXPEDITION WOULD TOTAL 15 PERSONS: 1 LEADER, 3 SCIENTISTS, 2 NAVIGATORS, 5 "SNOW CAR" OPERATORS, 1 MEDICAL, 3 COMMUNICATORS. THE OFFICIAL NAME IS "KOREA POLAR RESEARCH EXPEDITION TEAM" AND YOUNG-DO KIM, MEMBER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND 1977 EVEREST LEADER IS IDENTIFIED AS THE TEAM LEADER.

3. THE PROPOSAL IDENTIFIES CHRISTCHURCH, NZ AS THE REAR SUPPORT CENTER AND THE SCHEDULE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

- LEAVE CHRISTCHURCH OCTOBER 20, 1979
 - LAND AT "SCOTT STATION, THE SOUTH POLE"
 - (PRESUMABLY MCMURDO IS INTENDED)
 - "LAUNCH EXPEDITIONARY ACTIVITIES BY 30 KM MARCH A DAY" (HILLARY ROUTE)
 - ARRIVE AT SOUTH POLE DECEMBER 30, 1979
 - DEPART SOUTH POLE JANUARY 10, 1980
 - ARRIVE "SCOTT STATION, NEW ZEALAND" MARCH 1, 1980
- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 WELLIN 04816 01 OF 02 110451Z

- DEPART SCOTT STATION, MARCH 10, 1980 FOR CHRISTCHURCH
- ARRIVE CHRISTCHURCH MARCH 20, 1980

4. OTHER NOTABLE ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM INCLUDE:

A) EQUIPMENT -- EIGHTY (80) TONS TOTAL. INCLUDES FOUR "SNOW CARS" OF 8 TONS EACH; FOUR TRACTORS OF 1 TON EACH; 22.5 TONS FUEL AND OIL (TO BE PURCHASED IN NZ AND AT "US STATIONS"); 10 TONS FOOD; 10 TONS PERSONAL EQUIPMENT;

B) RESUPPLY -- FOOD AND OIL BY TEN AIR DROPS (FIVE EACH WAY) WITH INTERVALS OF TEN DAYS BETWEEN RESUPPLY;

C) COMMUNICATION -- BY LONG DISTANCE EQUIPMENT "SUBJECT TO PRIOR APPROVAL OF GNZ;"

D) SEARCH AND RESCUE -- "IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, A RELIEF ACTIVITY WILL BE PERFORMED BY AIR SUPPORT."

5. ON SEPTEMBER 6 ROK COUNSELOR PRESENTED COPIES OF FOREGOING DOCUMENTS AT EMBASSY WITH ADDITION OF NON-

PAPER ENTITLED "REQUEST FOR COOPERATION" WHICH LISTS

FOUR ELEMENTS OF U.S. ASSISTANCE:

- (A) LANDING OF KPKE TEAM AT MCMURDO;
- (B) CHARTERING OF "U.S. FLAG AIRPLANES" FOR AIR SUPPLIES;
- (C) PROCUREMENT OF FUEL (APPROX. 210 BARRELS) AT MCMURDO AND POLE STATIONS;
- (D) COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN U.S. STATIONS AND KPKE UNDER EXPEDITION.

NO DIPLOMATIC NOTE (OTHER THAN COPY OF ROK EMBASSY/MFA NOTE) WAS PRESENTED.

6. AT BOTH THE MFA AND EMBASSY, THE ROK COUNSELOR MADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 WELLIN 04816 01 OF 02 110451Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 WELLIN 04816 02 OF 02 110458Z

ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-15 OIC-02

CIAE-00 EB-08 ICA-11 IO-13 NSC-05 NSF-01 ARA-11

NSAE-00 COME-00 L-03 DLOS-09 SOE-02 DOE-15

TRSE-00 PM-05 EPA-01 INT-05 PA-01 CEQ-01 DOTE-00

OMB-01 ACDA-12 SP-02 /165 W

-----076374 110503Z /10

R 110417Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6204

INFO SECNAV WASHDC

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 WELLINGTON 04816

THE FOLLOWING (APPARENTLY UNINSTRUCTED) POINTS:

- (A) THE ROK PRESENTATION BETRAYS CONSIDERABLE NAIVETE;
- (B) THE EXPEDITION HAS BECOME A MATTER OF ROK

- NATIONAL PRIDE;
- (C) MONEY IS NO OBJECT;
- (D) THE ROK HOPES IT CAN COUNT ON THE ASSISTANCE AND
- COOPERATION OF ITS U.S. AND NZ FRIENDS.

7. MFA OFFICIALS ADVISED THE ROK COUNSELOR IN RESPONSE TO HIS PRESENTATION THAT GNZ LOGISTICS ARE FULLY COMMITTED FOR THE NEXT TWO ANTARCTIC SUMMER SEASONS AND IT WAS UNREALISTIC, AT WHATEVER PRICE, TO CONSIDER AN EXPEDITION BEFORE 1980-81. A THREE YEAR PLANNING PROGRAM WAS SUGGESTED. THE OPERATION OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY WAS EXPLAINED AS WELL AS THE POINT THAT NO PRIOR "PERMISSION" IS REQUIRED FOR THE ROK TO MOUNT AN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION WITH PEACEFUL PURPOSES. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY COULD MORE APPROPRIATELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 WELLIN 04816 02 OF 02 110458Z

DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF LOGISTICS FOR THE KPRE.

8. EMBASSY OFFICER REVIEWED WITH THE ROK COUNSELOR THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES OF LOGISTICAL SUPPORT IN THE ANTARCTIC ON SEPTEMBER 6. POINTS CONTAINED IN PARAS. 4 AND 5 OF REFTEL B WERE MADE. ROK COUNSELOR WAS ADVISED THAT HIS PRESENTATION WOULD BE REPORTED PROMPTLY TO WASHINGTON.

9. COPIES OF FULL SET OF DOCUMENTS BEING AIRMAILED TO DEPARTMENT AND SEOUL.

10. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
SELDEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, ITINERARY, SCIENTIFIC VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WELLIN04816
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780369-0108
Format: TEL
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780979/aaaacnqd.tel
Line Count: 205
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ac78e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SEOUL 6960, 78 STATE 210665
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1476444
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED KOREAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION
TAGS: TGEN, XV, KS, NZ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ac78e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014